

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06962 300825Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13
ACDA-12 /091 W
-----015593 310401Z /21

R 300744Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4170
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY MANILA
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HONOLULU
CINCUNC
UNC REAR, CAMP ZAMA JAPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 6962

EO 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MARR KS AS
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICER TO UNC REAR

REFS: 1) STATE 217454, 2) TOKYO 14870, 3) SEOUL 4532

1. EMBASSY CONCURS WITH PROPOSAL TO RAISE QUESTION OF
ASSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICER AT UNC REAR ONCE AGAIN
WITH GOA; WE WILL APPROACH NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY ROY
FERNANDEZ WITH REQUEST THAT GOA CONSIDER ACCREDITING
THEIR JAPANESE LANGUAGE STUDENT AT YOKOHAMA TO UNC REAR,
AND WILL REPORT OUTCOME.

2. WE ARE A BIT PROVOKED BY AMBASSADOR MENADUE'S IMPRES-
SION THAT WE HAVE NOT PUSHED THIS PLAN WITH DFA -- AN
IMPRESSION WE ASSUME HE GOT FROM INTERNAL GOA REPORTING
FROM THE CHINA/KOREA SECTION IN DFA WHICH HAS DONE WHAT IT COULD
TO PREVENT APPROVAL OF AN AUSTRALIAN OFFICER BEING
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ACCREDITED TO UNC REAR.

3. WHEN THIS PROPOSAL FIRST CAME UP IN FEB/MARCH, WE
MADE A NUMBER OF APPROACHES TO DFA, WORKING UP THE
LINE THROUGH THE DEFENCE DIVISION, NORTH AND SOUTH ASIA
DIVISION, WESTERN DIVISION AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISA-
TIONS DIVISION. MATTER WAS RAISED AT WORKING LEVEL,

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL, AND FINALLY -- FORMALLY AND IN WRITING -- TO DEPUTY SECRETARY PETER HENDERSON. APPROACHES AT ADOD NETTED COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL TO DUALY-ACCREDIT THE AUSTRALIAN LANGUAGE STUDENT AT YOKOHAMA LANGUAGE SCHOOL, AND AS A RESULT OF AMEMBASSIES SEOUL AND TOKYO'S DISCUSSIONS WITH AUSTRALIAN MISSIONS THERE, DFA RECEIVED SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS FROM THEM.

4. KOREA DESK, AS ACTION OFFICE, COLLATED ALL VIEWS AND THEN RECOMMENDED AGAINST THE PROPOSAL ON THE GROUNDS THAT (A) IT WAS NOT NECESSARY SINCE DFA LEGAL SECTION QUESTIONS WHETHER LACK OF CONTINUITY IN EXERCISING THE SOFA WOULD NECESSARILY INVALIDATE IT; (B) IF IT EVER HAD TO BE RESURRECTED, THERE IS LITTLE QUESTION THAT THE JAPANESE WOULD AGREE; (C) THE PHILIPPINES WAS ON THE VERGE OF ACCREDITING AN OFFICER TO UNC REAR; AND (D) GOA (READ KOREA DESK'S) HOPES FOR "RE-NORMALIZATION" OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY WHAT THE DESK OFFICER CONCERNED HAS TOLD EMBASSY HE BELIEVES TO BE AN ANACHRONISTIC PRESENCE DATING BACK TO THE COLD WAR.

5. WE ARE WILLING TO GIVE THIS ONE ANOTHER TRY, BUT ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT ITS CHANCES FOR SUCCESS ARE. WILL REPORT OUTCOME OF APPROACH. TOKYO AND SEOUL ARE WELCOME TO USE GIST OF OUR PROBLEM WITH KOREA DESK IN DFA WITH THEIR AUSTRALIAN COUNTERPARTS IF THEY SEE SUITABLE OPPOR-
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TUNITY TO DO SO. AS A MINIMUM, WOULD APPRECIATE THEIR SEEKING TO REDRESS IMPRESSION THAT WE HAVE NOT PUSHED QUITE VIGOROUSLY TO GET AUSTRALIAN OFFICER ACCREDITED TO UNC REAR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CANBER06962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780355-0269
Format: TEL
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780810/aaaaahuh.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1b58457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 217454, 78 TOKYO 14870, 78 SEOUL 4532
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1538562
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASSIGNMENT OF AUSTRALIAN OFFICER TO UNC REAR
TAGS: MARR, KS, AS, UNC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1b58457-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014